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MALTESE DEPUTATION.

SIR,—I have seen with great satisfaction, in your Register, the memorials of the Maltese deputies, and think that not only the Maltese, but the British nation are obliged to you, for laying before the publick, documents of such great national concern, that a shameful violation of public faith may not be imputed to a country so justly proud of its honour, which, according to the sentiment of Mr. Fox, is its "proudest possession," but that the infamy may attach only to those few individuals, who, abusing the power intrusted to them, have dared to do that which, from the British throne to the British cottage, must, when heard of, be held in contempt and abhorrence.—But, the reason why I have taken up my pen, is to furnish you with the sequel of the history of the Maltese deputies, which I had an opportunity of knowing, as I saw one or other of them almost every day while they remained in England.—When the deputies had an *unofficial* audience of Lord Hobart, at his *private* house, the Abbé Riccaud, who spoke French more fluently than any of the others, found himself so much hurt by the little impression the statement of their claims made on his Lordship, that he suffered himself to be carried away by the violence of his indignation, and expressed himself in terms the most energetic, and perhaps the most *uncourtly*. He said, in short, every thing that a man devoted to his country, and regardless even of life, which he, though a priest, had often risked in its defence, can be supposed to say when he feels the fulness of its injuries. His Lordship heard all with great patience, but the next day he sent a gentleman to the Abbé to remonstrate with him on the impropriety of his language. He confessed, his feelings had made him forget every consideration but the cause of his injured country; that, though his language might be blameable, the sentiments he had uttered were such as he never should disavow, and that he should adhere to them as long as he had life, conscious that his God must approve them.———An excuse for his having "*perdu la tête*" was carried back to Lord Hobart.—From that day however (it is not for me to insinuate why) the treatment of the deputies was very different: they were in a *private manner*, caressed.—Sir Alexander Ball accompanied them every where, and shewed them the *Lions*, St. Paul's, the Tower, &c. and their expenses were defrayed by government. Before they left England, they wished to be presented to his Majesty. This was promised them, and they were carried *to Windsor*, where they saw the King on the terrace, who certainly spoke to them with such gracious condescension, that, when they returned to London they related it with tears in their eyes.—A few days after the definitive treaty was signed, they resolved to return to Malta, and accordingly they were, at the expense of government, sent to Portsmouth, and carried to Malta in the Acasta frigate. At their departure each of them received *a handsome present in money*,—and they expressed to Lord Hobart, as gentlemen would on such an occasion, their "*gratitude* for all the PERSONAL FAVOURS they had received."—Soon after their departure, Sir Alexander Ball, who had all along attended them, with the greatest assiduity, was appointed his Majesty's minister to the Grand Master and Order of St. John of Jerusalem.—It is well known to me, and it is well known to Lord Hobart, that *since the return of these deputies*, the Maltese have, if it be possible, been *more violent in their opposition to the Order, than they were before*.—The deputies were enjoined by their constituents to represent and enforce all the memorial contained. It must therefore be considered as their instructions and full powers. Never was any deputation from a nation more *legitimate* than this, for, as soon as the deputies had been appointed, it was announced to the people in the whole island by a *written* notification (as his Majesty's civil commissioner refused to allow them to print it,) stuck up at the churches, public offices, and corners of the streets, &c. and all those who had any objection to any one of the deputies, or to any part of the object of the mission, were required to signify the same within three days to the public notary, and it is a most singular circumstance, that there

was not one dissenting voice; as appears by the formal certificates given to the deputies by the notaries.—The deputies, assured me, that, before their departure from Malta, they gave a copy and a translation of their memorial to his Majesty's civil commissioner, to transmit officially to the King's ministry.—Amongst other circumstances, I recollect, their having assured me, that on the arrival of the preliminary articles of peace at Malta, so far from any public rejoicings having taken place, a mournful consternation was visible in every countenance. I have since heard by letter, that, when the people were informed of the final decision of their fate, by the publication of the 10th article of the definitive treaty of Amiens, (*printed* at Malta, with an Italian translation) it was *torn down from all the places where the government had caused it to be affixed*, and, the people became almost furious; but no kind of riot or disorder whatever took place. At length a sad funeral silence ensued, and people moved through the streets as in mournful procession to the interment of their dear-bought liberties.--No cannon were fired. No windows were lighted in Malta!—On his Majesty's next birth day, the cannon were fired as usual. In the evening the ships in the port fired the musketry and the garrison several running fires round the works. There were also fire-works and a general illumination. The repeated and animated huzzas of the Maltese in the streets were louder than the musketry. It is impossible that a more enthusiastic attachment could be testified by any people to their Sovereign, than was shewn by the Maltese on this occasion; and it as plainly spoke their sentiments of his Majesty, as the deputies did of his ministers.—Now, let it be asked, whether those people are worthy to be incorporated into the British empire, or whether they deserve, by its ministers, "*to be sold as slaves for a* "*political consideration.*"——I am, &c. &c.

J. W.

P.S. This last circumstance of his Majesty's birth-day has been confirmed to me, by several officers returned from Malta.

GEN. BENTHAM'S PROJECTS.

SIR,—I am a person understood by the denomination of a plain country gentleman, and having a natural desire for the sea, was, when very young, intended for the service of my country in the naval line. Constant sickness however soon taught me, that it was an element which would be at variance with my constitution, and reluctantly I left it.—I have always felt a pleasure in embracing every opportunity of seeing and contemplating the bulwark of our country, and having heard of the extensive works, which have been carrying on in Portsmouth Yard for some years; such as the constructing new docks, basins, &c. I was lately induced to visit that place, hitherto the great repository of the British navy.—I was shewn two new docks for repairing the largest ships, and told that a canal, which I saw, was next to be converted into docks for smaller ships. There are two new basins for repairing line of battle ships and frigates; planned, as I was told, by General Bentham, together with other immense works, all of which are solely of his plan, and under his direction, and not by the Navy Board, as ever heretofore. These works, I find, have been in hand, constantly employing a great number of workmen, for 11 or 12 years. The first thing which strikes the mind upon surveying these great works is the *national expense:* judge then of my ideas and surprize when told by my conductor, that it was not only an enormous but positively useless expense. Not leaving me in suspense he explained himself directly; he reverted as far back as the glorious war of 1759, and said at the commencement of that war, the ordinary of the post included 49 sail of the line, with frigates in proportion: these were kept in repair and brought forward for commissioning, all through that war, faster than men could be procured to man them, waiting always for men, so remarkably the case at this day. In the peace concluded in 1763 the docks were greatly improved and additional slips for the building of ships were added: and consequently in the next war, called the American, the Dock-yard was always beforehand, so that ships were repaired much faster than men could be found for them. What more then could be wanted, there being ample docks, ample building slips? Here expense should have stopped, but novel and extensive works were to be formed without regard to expenditure, urged by wild speculation to gain a name, and specious representation unhappily succeeded.—That the same readiness of equipment again was found in the last war is recent enough for every one to know, and to the list of ships continuing at Spithead in the years 1793 and 1794 in want of men, every underwriter at Lloyd's of that day can bear feeling testimony: while the enemies cruizers were cutting up our trade, and uninterruptedly enriching themselves, having nothing to oppose. Where then, said my conductor, was the occassion for the enormous expense of new docks, new basins, new works of various descriptions! He then added, eleven or twelve years have these works been carrying on, and one of the docks and

the great basins have been completed some time; but there was no occasion for them, for in the height of this last war, the ships which the old docks contained, required more shipwrights than there were belonging to the yard; and the other Dock-yards, even to Plymouth, were forced to find each their quota of shipwrights to be sent here in aid, and altogether were not enough for the ships already in the old docks, and those coming into the harbour for occasional repairs. Many more in addition to those might have been employed, if more could have been found. He then carried me round the yard and shewed me four line of battle ships of the largest kind lying in docks to receive repairs, in not one of which was there a single shipwright at work. What are the ideas which must naturally strike a foreigner, seeing this; for, although there is a prohibition of foreigners coming into the yards, least they should discover the nakedness of the land; nevertheless, permits from the Admiralty, I am told, are given occasionally, which do admit those who probably have the greatest discernment. The ships before mentioned in the docks, I think were the Queen, Barfleur, Ajax, and Montague: the whole power of the yard being employed, together with the master carpenters of the ships in ordinary *working as common men* (never before known) on board of 3 frigates in the docks, and the ships fitting in the harbour. He added, the want of shipwrights, indeed of every description of artificers and labourers in the yard, (of which you shall hear more hereafter) is one of the blessed effects of discharging men and driving them out of the service, whose youth, vigour, and maturity have been passed in it and attached to it. Many of whom from experience were far better qualified to continue in the performance of their different departments, than the young and new comers placed in their stead, nevertheless too far advanced in life to begin a new line elsewhere. Is this holding forth encouragement for the *King* and *Country's* service? He then shewed me the slips for building line of battle ships, covered with lumber, and told me that there had not been a keel of a line of battle ship laid in this yard the last two years, and that during this time *two* only had been launched, and which had been previously building.—I must own it struck me forcibly, that there should not have been a keel of one ship laid down since the peace in this great dock-yard, while our enemy is known to be so active.—If we have in our late wars equipped ships from our ports faster than men could be procured to man them, the enormous expense of these *new works* is *futile*. Should not a board be appointed to examine such works as to their utility, and to put a stop to wild speculations, tending to drain the vitals of the nation.—I am an admirer of your strenuous endeavours to awaken the nation to a sense of its real situation, and shall conclude with a remark of your own, that "of 600 noblemen and gentlemen; "the constitutional guardians of this coun- "try, no one should be found to examine "into this, is strange indeed."—I am, Sir, yours, &c. VIATOR.

London, 3 May, 1803.

ON THE NAVY.

SIR,—I have perused your Register with great attention for some months past, particularly that part which relates to the conduct of the Admiralty, and having some knowledge of what is going on, in this season of *puffing* and *vain-boasting*, I have presumed to offer a few observations on the measures of that Board. Much has been said in the House of Commons and Morning Papers, upon the *wise* and *politic* proceedings of the Admiralty, but I contend their plans have had a far different effect than what they and their friends suppose, for that which has been held out as an encouragement, is considered a gross infringement upon one of the most important branches of mechanism this country can boast of; I mean the mode which the Admiralty have adopted in distributing apprentices to the shipwrights. In a few years the *modellers* and *draftsmen* will be extinct, for the apprentices brought into the service upon the present system cannot (for the want of a knowledge of the art of drawing, &c. necessary for laying down a ship), have any idea beyond the laborious part. Does the Admiralty think that to be a shipwright it requires no other ability than to dub and chop? I do not mean to say it is necessary every shipwright should possess the knowledge I describe, but it is certainly expedient a proportion of them should. The lads that are now taken into that line are the sons of indigent men, who have it not in their power to give their children an education beyond common reading and writing, and many cannot afford them even those necessary qualifications.—Formerly interest was made to get respectable young men apprenticed to the principal officers of the trade, by which means the mould loft was full of young men of good education, who were capable of obtaining a knowledge of the more intricate branch of their profession.—But, Sir, a most wonderful change for the worse has been, and will continue to be the result of the present measures pur-

sued by the Admiralty; for now, no one of the description I have just alluded to, comes forward, indeed many who were in the service previous to the late regulations, having taken place, have gone in disgust to seek employment elsewhere, and the few now remaining are only waiting a favourable opportunity to follow them.—But, Sir, perhaps the Admiralty will say, we will make those, whose duty we conceive it to be, to instruct the new apprentices in every part of their profession. In answer to which I contend, it is morally impossible for such an order to be complied with, unless the master shipwrights and their assistants turn schoolmasters, and teach the boys to read and write, and so to go on progressively till they arrive at a knowledge of the *geometrical problems, drawing, &c.* for without those qualifications, it will be utterly impossible for them to form the moulds by which the timbers of a ship are put together; therefore, in a few years, when new ships are to be built, (if the present system is pursued) the King's yards will be destitute of artists of this description, to whom fundamental knowledge is as necessary in the construction of a ship, as the materials with which it is composed.—The Admiralty have been obliged to resort to the assistance of the warranted carpenter of ships to do the common duty of working shipwrights. An *unprecedented* measure!!! Adopted in consequence of the want of men in some of the yards, which deficiency, (for a deficiency there is, notwithstanding it was advanced in the House the dock-yards were full of artificers) has been occasioned by the furious and highly inconsiderate conduct of the Admiralty, by their driving from the service a number of the best and most approved workmen.—You observed, some little time since, the Victory could not be got to sea in six months, the Admiralty (I suppose to refute your assertion) have strained every nerve to get her to Long Reach, which they have done by keeping ships in commission which ought to have been paid off three weeks ago, and by taking the pensioners (men sent from Greenwich to assist in fitting the ships) from the *blocks* and *bulks* preparing to guard the mouth of the Thames, and by that measure procrastinated the equipment of those *powerful* means of our *security*, and particularly at a time when the ministers were congratulating the country on their being in such a state of forwardness, so as to take their stations in a few days. It is true the Victory is in Long Reach, with her guns and stores in; but she is yet in want of a *trifling* requisite, *trifling* indeed in the eyes of the minister, I mean the want of men, for I believe last week (independent of her marines) she had not more than 50 on board including officers, men, and boys. She has been commissioned a month, and therefore if their endeavours to procure hands in the same proportion of time is not attended with better success, your statement will prove but *too* true.—With regard to the dock-yards being full of stores, as a morning paper the other day asserted, I have only to observe, respecting the article of timber, the yards in general are very short. Chatham yard I believe is pretty well stocked, but in the others a very great scarcity prevails; I only refer your readers to *Deptford* and *Woolwich*, and I have every reason to suppose the same deficiency will be found at the western yards.—At the commencement of the armament many of the poor fellows on board ship were obliged to sleep night after night on the decks without beds and blankets, and, therefore, numbers were sent to the hospital attacked with severe colds and rheumatism, and this in consequence of the ill-judged conduct of the Admiralty, in refusing to take off the contractors hands a number of those articles he had made during the latter part of the last war for the express purpose of government. Notwithstanding these defalcations, their partizans have the *audacity* to assure the Public, that no want of stores has at any time prevailed. But will they attempt to deny the truth of these assertions? No, Sir, they cannot, they are facts *too* glaring, facts incontrovertible.—The orders of the Admiralty are now so complicated and confused, that individuals hardly know how to act; an order of to-day is contradicted to-morrow. For instance, the Unicorn frigate was ordered from Sheerness to Chatham, to be fitted for service, another order was sent to Sheerness for her to be taken in hand there, which did not arrive till four days after she had sailed for Chatham; the shipwrights, in consequence, were almost at a stand for want of work; whereas, at Chatham, the greatest hurry and bustle prevailed, and, in order to keep the shipwrights at Sheerness employed, they took the Commissioner's yacht into dock, to caulk and copper her bottom; a *trifling* service in comparison with what was going on in other yards. Last October, positive directions were sent to the yards, that artificers were not to be entered whose age exceeded 28, since which, that *well digested* order has been superseded, and now the extension is to 35, the limited age that was wisely ordered in the days of our ancestors. That these blunders and inconveniencies would not have happened un-

der any other set of men must be, notorious to every well informed person.—Captain Markham observed, on Wednesday last, in the House, that "attacks unjust, unfounded, and malevolent might be made on the conduct of the Admiralty. But how did those attacks accord with the truth? Three months after the proclamation of war in 1793, the effective naval force of Great-Britain was much less than that which we now had in readiness to act against any enemy at the present moment. In every part of the world we had a naval force more than equal to all the strength of the navy of France, which exhibited nothing better than *fishing boats* in their ports, and had, in fact, no existence, unless, perhaps, in the minds of certain hon. gentlemen on the opposite side of the House, and their friends!!!" The most *bare-faced* and *impudent* assertion I ever met with! This precisely corresponds with every part of their former conduct. The Admiralty have invariably taken upon themselves the credit of every plan that was framed by their predecessors. Does the *hon.* captain mean to attach any credit to the present Admiralty for the number of ships that are now on foreign stations? I only wish to remind him, that those ships are the remains of our fleets commissioned during the late war, and that nothing but *dire* necessity has kept them so long abroad, and had it not been for that *lamented* necessity, those very ships which the Admiralty now boasts of as being ready to act, would long since have been dismantled.—I contend we ought to look to the ships that have been *got ready in our harbours at home, since the peace* (and not to those on foreign stations) by which we ought to judge of the exertion and conduct of the Admiralty; let every unprejudiced person do that, and it will be found how very much we have fallen short of what was formerly done on similar occasions, and this in consequence of the *unwise* and *ignorant* proceedings of the Board of Admiralty; a Board that has abused its authority, a Board that has *insulted* and *degraded* almost every person under their controul, of which many hundreds, both civil and military, can bear testimony. —I am, Sir, your hearty well-wisher,

May 8, 1803. L. M.

Extract, from an Italian book, entitled Le Richezze dell' Italia passate in Franchia, &c. —or the Riches of Italy gone into France, or an account of the Plunder made by the French Republic since 1794. (*Italia* 1800.)

	Livres Tournois.
1. Contributions in silver and gold coin - - - -	151,150,000
2. By pillage, requisition, and various other ways, money, jewels, and valuable furniture - - - -	242,110,000
3. Forced loans, contributions in kind, obtained by requisition, or taken by force, &c. - - - -	145,000,000
Total	£538,260,000

Besides invaluable productions of the arts, (which never can be replaced) private plunder and destruction of all kind, &c.—Among the treasures of antiquity which during the revolution have been carried from Italy into France, the author mentions the following.—1. The whole of the Archives of the ancient Senate of Venice.—2. The most important documents for the history of this government.—3. An immense collection of natural history, which the *English General at Malta, after the surrender of Valetta, out of respect to the famous philosopher and jacobin,* DOLOMIEU, *sent from Malta to Marseilles in a flag of truce!!!*

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Paris, April 27.—The corvettes l'Etormante and la Foudroyante have arrived at Brest from Guadaloupe, which place they left on the 8th of March. —An article from Rennes of the 20th states, "that "two detachments of the 6th regiment of artil- "lery, in garrison in that city, marched a few "days ago for Belle Isle, and the Isles St. Marcou. "Notwithstanding the little appearance of a rup- "ture between France and England, both powers "are taking the necessary precautions."—We are informed from Besançon, under date of the 22d, that Toussaint Louverture, who was in custody at Fort de Joux, departed this life a week ago.

Paris, April 28.—The English evacuated Alexandria on the 17th March. They embarked with them, Mahommed Elfy Bey, as Ambassador Extr. from the Beys to the court of London. The English also took with them all the bronze cannon, and all the military effects which were at Alexandria, so that the Porte will have to send fresh artillery to fortify that place.—Moniteur.—They received on the 24th at Strasbourg, the intelligence that the imperial ratification of the conclusum of the diet had arrived at Ratisbon.—The Prince of Nassau Orange, ci-devant Stadtholder of Holland, has published the convention by which he abandons in entire property to his son, the Hereditary Prince, all the indemnities allotted to him by the Germanic Empire.

Constantinople, March 20.—The Porte has, by another courier, received news from Arabia, which is said to be of a disagreeable nature. According to public report, the Pacha of Mecca advanced with a body of troops against the rebel Abdul Wechab. An engagement ensued. It was fought with obstinacy, and with great bloodshed. The troops

of the Pacha were, in the end, defeated and dispersed.

Petersburgh, March 30.—Upon the arrival of couriers from London, Paris, Vienna, and Berlin, conferences were here opened, in which several of the foreign ministers were invited to take part. We have room to hope, that the result of those negotiations will be favourable to the maintenance of the general peace of Europe. However, the proposal made to England to evacuate Malta, and leave it to be occupied by Russian troops, has not been accepted.

Leghorn, April 13.—The reports of peace and war succeed daily to each other. The English families who were settled here have embarked, disembarked, and re-embarked themselves and their property. The English frigate that is in these roads has ordered all the merchant ships of that nation to quit the port, and to anchor in the roads.

Milan, April 14.—They write from Naples, under date of the 9th of April, that the arrival of an English vessel had occasioned the holding of a Council of State, at the breaking up of which the French Minister expedited a Courier to Paris in all haste. The Courier set out about twelve hours after the English vessel had entered the port. This event has not failed to give birth to several contradictory reports, for instance, of a convention concluded with France for receiving 20,000 men in their ports in case of war, and of another set on foot with England relative to Sicily.

Brussels, May 2.—They write from the Batavian frontiers, that the French troops, which are already arrived at Nimeguen, and in the environs of that place, consist of a body of 6,000 men, which will be augmented according to circumstances. Our troops have also occupied, within these few days, some new places in Holland, on the second, and even the third line. The Batavian Government has given orders to embark, very speedily, the troops destined to reinforce the garrison of the Cape of Good Hope. The last advices received from Flushing import, that all is still in the same situation; that place has been put in a good state of defence; the garrison is exact in its service, but hitherto the other ordinary dispositions in a town in a state of siege have not been carried into execution. The town of Veau, situate in the Isle of Walcheren, has also a French garrison. At Middleburg the garrison is composed of French troops, and a battalion of Dutch infantry.—It is even apparent that all Zealand will be exclusively occupied by French troops.

Paris, May 5.—Lord Whitworth had announced his departure as fixed for yesterday, at five in the morning; the Ambassador has, however, changed his resolution, but it is not said how long the delay will last. Whatever may be the cause of this new incident, it is impossible not to conceive some hope of the preservation of peace.—Much is said of the approaching departure of all the French troops stationed in Switzerland. The greater part of these troops will, it is said, proceed to Italy; the rest to the departments of the ci-devant Alsace and Franche Comté.——*May* 8. —From the news of yesterday it was no longer doubted that the English Ambassador was about to depart, and the report of a rupture between France and England appeared to be confirmed. Since this morning, however, the aspect of affairs is changed, and hopes are entertained that peace will not be interrupted. It is said, that Lord Whitworth's departure is deferred; that he had this morning an important conference with the Minister for Foreign Affairs; and that after that conference a Messenger Extraordinary was dispatched to London.—On the 2d inst. Citizen Thorn, who is appointed by the First Consul, President of the General Consistory of Protestants of Augsburg, in the two departments of the Rhine, took, in that character, the oaths prescribed by the Concordat at the Thuilleries. The three Consuls were seated in chairs, and the New Testament was placed on a table before them. The President knelt down on a velvet cushion, and, laying his right hand on the New Testament, pronounced the oath with a loud voice. The three Consuls then arose, and Buonaparté put several questions to the new President.

DOMESTIC.

From the London Gazette.—St. James', April 28, 1803.—CEREMONIAL *of the Knighthood and Investiture of Gen. Sir D. Dundas, Knight of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath.*

The Knights and Officers of the Order, attending in the Privy Chamber, in their mantles, collars, &c. proceeded from thence into the Sovereign's presence, making the usual reverences:—Then, by the Sovereign's command, Gen. Dundas was introduced into the presence between the Right Hon. Sir W. Fawcett and the Earl of Malmesbury, the two Junior Knights present, preceded by the Gentleman Usher of the Order, with reverences as before.—The Sword of State was delivered to the Sovereign by Lord De Blaqueire, the Second Knight in seniority, and Gen. Dundas, kneeling, was knighted therewith. Then His Royal Highness the Duke of York, senior Knight, presented the Ribbon and Badge to the Sovereign, and his Majesty put them over the new Knight's right shoulder, who, being thus invested, had the honour to kiss his Majesty's hand, and the procession returned to the Privy Chamber.—The ceremony was performed in his Majesty's closet before the drawing-room, several of the great officers of the court being present.

Crown-Office, April 30, 1803.—*Members returned to serve in this present Parliament.*—Town of Berwick-upon-Tweed—Francis Sitwell, of Barmoor Castle, in the County of Northumberland, Esq and Alexander Allan, of Baker-street, St. Mary-la-Bone, in the County of Middlesex, Esq. in the room of Thomas Hall and John Fordyce, Esqrs. whose election for the said town has been adjudged to be void.

St. James' Palace, May 4, 1803.—His Majesty has been pleased to appoint William Earl of Mansfield, to be Lord Lieutenant of the Shire of Clackmannan, in North Britain.—This day the Chevalier d'Anduaga, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from Spain, had a private audience of his Majesty to deliver his Credentials:—And Rufus King, Esq. Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States of America, had an audience of Leave of his Majesty:—To which they were respectively introduced by the Right Hon. Lord Hawkesbury, his Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and conducted by Sir Stephen Cottrell, Knight, Master of the Ceremonies.—The King was this day pleased to confer the Honour of Knighthood on Colonel Charles Green, William Bulkeley Hughes, Esq. Francis Hartwell, Esq. and Samuel Autchmoutty, Esq.

Whitehall, May 5.—The King has been pleased to grant to Joseph Hawker, Esq. late Rouge

Croix Pursuivant of Arms, the Office of Richmond Herald, void by the Promotion of Ralph Bigland, Esq. to the Office of Norroy, King of Arms.

St. James' Palace, May 6.—His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland has been pleased to appoint Major Thornton to be one of his Royal Highness' Equerries.

Extract from Daily Papers.—The following extraordinary communication in a morning print of Saturday (the 7th instant) excited much doubt and anxiety, and operated a complete stagnation of all monied concerns in the city:—

"*TIMES OFFICE,*

"*Saturday Morning, Half past Two o'clock.*

"We stop the press to announce the arrival of "Mr. Silvester, with dispatches from Lord Whit-"worth, and also a French courier, with dis-"patches for General Andreossi.—We have seen "a gentleman who is also this moment arrived "from France. He states, that previous to his "leaving Calais, Mengaud, the French commis-"sary, had received official information from Pa-"ris that the negotiation had been amicably ter-"minated.—In consequence of this joyful intel-"ligence, Mengaud ordered that public demon-"strations of joy should immediately take place; "and when our informant left Calais, the military "were assembling to celebrate the happy tidings. "—The above intelligence, the truth of which we "entertain no doubt, will at once dispel *the gloom,* "which prevailed yesterday, from the apparent "certainty of hostilities.—We have been also fa-"voured with a sight of the Moniteur of the 3d "and 4th inst. and also of the Argus of the last "date.—There is nothing new in these papers. "The French funds were on the 3d at 53f. 25c.— "At the audience on Sunday last, Mr. Monroe, "the American Envoy Extraordinary, presented "his credentials to the First Consul."

To prevent any improper advantage, however, from being taken by those who might possibly be possessed of intelligence, and to learn to a certainty whether the news was true, some of the gentlemen of the Stock Exchange waited on the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, to request the favour of *his sending to Lord Hawkesbury to ascertain the fact.* His Lordship, with great politeness, cheerfully acquiesced, and in consequence it was put to the vote at the Stock Exchange, whether it would not be most proper to suspend all business until the answer arrived. The House was unanimous, and waited with the utmost anxiety until three quarters past twelve o'clock, when the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor came to the Stock Exchange, and addressed them to the following effect:—His Lordship lamented that he had inadvertently and unintentionally been the means of so much mischief, by announcing the impudent forgery which had been practised upon him on Thursday last; but he trusted that the House would do him the justice to believe, that what he did he conceived was for the public good.—[Here was a general cry of "Yes! Yes!"]—His Lordship then stated, that, in consequence of their request, he had written to Lord Hawkesbury, and his messenger was detained until that moment; that he had received, however, an answer from Mr. Addington, which he begged leave to read; it was as follows:—

"My Lord,——As Lord Hawkesbury is not at "the Foreign Office, I have opened your Lordship's "note, conformably to the wish expressed through "your messenger.—If any information had been "received by government, which could properly "be the subject of public communication, your "Lordship may be assured that such communi-"cation would not have been with-held.—I feel it, "however, my duty distinctly to caution your "Lordship against receiving impressions of the "description alluded to, through any unautho-"rised channel of information.——I have the ho-"nour to be, &c. HENRY ADDINGTON."

Downing-street, Saturday noon.

The following resolutions were then put and unanimously carried, a copy of which was delivered to his Lordship:—"At a meeting of the mem-"bers of the Stock Exchange, held on Saturday "the 7th of May, 1803.—It was unanimously re-"solved, That the thanks of the whole House "should be given to the Right Hon. the Lord "Mayor, for the laudable promptitude displayed "by his Lordship on this day, by communicating "in person, to the members of the Stock Exchange, "an official answer to their application.—It was "farther resolved, that a copy of that resolution "should be transmitted to his Lordship, in tes-"timony of their entire satisfaction in his Lord-"ship's explanation, as well as the most perfect "confidence in the solicitude manifested by his "Lordship for the public welfare.

Signed, by authority,

C. H. HANCOCK, Chairman."

The Lord Mayor then, in a neat speech, returned thanks for the honour done him; and assured them, that at all times he should be happy, and feel it his duty, to attend to what he conceived was material to the welfare of his fellow citizens in general, and to *that House in particular.*—His Lordship afterwards went out by the door which leads into Broad-street, to avoid the crowd which had assembled in Capel-court; and the chairman having given notice, that, on the going round of the *rattle*, business would commence, *the rattle was immediately sprung*, and the first price was 66. They then fell to 65. Considerable sums were sold from that price to 64½, after which they rose to 65¾ for money, 66 for account, and left off at 65½ for either money or time.

Jamaica.—A dissenting minister, named Campbell, who some time since was a popular preacher in this city, lately went to Jamaica, with the view to convert and *enlighten* the Blacks;—the Magistrates, however, under authority of the law for preventing preaching by persons not duly qualified, ordered him to prison, and the Grand Court, after three day's hearing, confirmed their order. The penalty is six months imprisonment; but this being his first offence there, he was only to be confined a month.—In New England, they would have justly bestowed on him *forty lacking one.*

Gibraltar, April 18, 1803.—On the 14th the Anacreon transport, with the 88th regiment on board, arrived here from Egypt, on their way to England. They sailed from Alexandria with the rest of the army on the 12th of March, the embarkation having taken place on the 11th. They touched at Malta, where the whole of the other ships with the rest of the troops had also arrived before they left it.—His Royal Highness embarks in a few days for England.—By a vessel in eight days from Marseilles we learn, that they are pressing every young man there, and at Toulon also, from 16 to 26, for either the navy or army.

DOMESTIC OFFICIAL PAPERS.

COPIES OF LETTERS RESPECTING THE EXPORTATION OF 5,000 QUARTERS OF SEED CORN TO NORWAY, LAID BEFORE

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON THE 9TH OF MAY, 1803.

Letter from Lord Hawkesbury to the Lords of the Treasury, dated 24th March, 1803.

MY LORDS,—Mr. Gyldenpalm, his Danish Majesty's Chargé-d'Affaires at this Court, has represented to me, by order of his Government, that, owing to the failure of the crops of the last season, the kingdom of Norway is at this moment in the utmost distress for every species of grain. He has consequently applied for permission to export to that country, from the ports of Scotland, 5,000 quarters of seed corn (oats and barley), if your lordships should see no objection to comply with this request. It is highly important, at this advanced season, that no time should be lost in giving the necessary orders for that purpose. (Signed) HAWKESBURY.

Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury to the Commissioners of Customs in Scotland, dated 25th March, 1803.

GENTLEMEN,—Lord Hawkesbury, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, having represented to the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, that Mr. Gyldenpalm, his Danish Majesty's Chargé-d'Affaires at this Court, has applied for permission to export to Norway, from the port of Scotland, 5,000 quarters of seed corn (oats and barley) in consequence of the distressed state of that kingdom from the failure of the crops of last season; their lordships are pleased, under the circumstances stated by Mr. Gyldenpalm, to comply with the request. I have therefore received their lordships' commands to desire you will forthwith give the necessary directions for permitting the exportation of the above-mentioned quantities of oats and barley to Norway accordingly. (Signed) JOHN SARGENT.

Letter from the Secretary of the Treasury to the Commissioners of Customs in Scotland, dated April 14, 1803.

GENTLEMEN,—It being in contemplation to issue an Order in Council to permit a certain quantity of seed corn to be sent to Dronthiem in Norway, and several vessels having been loaded for that purpose, as mentioned in the enclosed paper;—I have received the commands of the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury to desire, that you will give the necessary orders to permit the said vessels to clear out and sail for that place accordingly; and to cancel the coasting bonds.——The Order in Council alluded to will be transmitted to you as soon as possible.

(Signed) N. VANSITTART.

Names of Ships and Masters engaged to take Part of the Seed Grain intended for Denmark; viz.

The Lady Ridlers, Smith, Master, at Lynn, loaded with 1,000 quarters barley; ready for sea, and only waiting permission to sail.——The Calne, Joseph Stanford, Master, with 600 quarters barley, at Yarmouth; ready for sea.——The Margaret, John Bishop, Master, with 600 quarters barley, also at Yarmouth; ready for sea.——The Diamond Packet, James Nesbitt, Master, in loading at Berwick; will carry about 600 a. 620 quarters of oats. SCOTT, HARRIS, and Co.

London, April 13, 1803.

Notice issued by the Commissioners for Claims under the Convention with the United States of America, dated from their Office, Great Marlborough Street, May 7, 1803.

Whereas by an Act passed in this present Session of Parliament, intituled "An Act for appointing Commissioners for distributing the Money stipulated to be paid by the United States of America, under the Convention made between his Majesty and the said United States, among the Persons having Claims to Compensation out of such Money;" Thomas Macdonald, Esq. Henry Pye Rich, Esq. and John Guillemard, Esq. are constituted and appointed Commissioners for the purposes aforesaid; and it is enacted that the adjudication of such Commissioners, or any two of them, as to all claims made for compensation out of such money, and also as to the apportionment or distribution thereof as aforesaid, shall be final and conclusive: And whereas it is thereby further enacted, that no claim or request of any person or persons under the said Act, shall be received after the first day of June, 1804: And whereas his Majesty by the said Convention (dated the 8th day of January, 1802), consented to accept of the said money so to be paid by the said United States, (amounting in the whole to £600,000 sterling), for the use of the persons described in the Sixth Article of the Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation, concluded at London, on the 4th day of November, 1794, between his Majesty and the said United States, in satisfaction and discharge of the money which the United States might have been liable to pay in pursuance of the provisions of the said Sixth Article.—All persons who think themselves entitled, as being within the description of the said 6th Article of the said Treaty, and the meaning of the said Convention, to claim under the said Act; and who have not already preferred claims at this Office under the said Convention, pursuant to and in terms of the notice in the London Gazette of the 11th day of September last, (which claims so preferred in terms of the said notice, will be held and considered by the said Commissioners as claims under the above Act of Parliament,) are hereby required, without delay, and at farthest on or before the said first day of June, 1804, when the sum total of claims will be finally made up and ascertained; to present and deliver at this office, their respective claims, in the form of memorials, addressed to the Commissioners under the said Act of Parliament, and duly signed by the parties, or their agents respectively authorised for that purpose, with such relative lists or schedules of debts and debtors as the several cases may admit of or require; the said memorials and relative lists or schedules distinctly setting forth the several points enumerated and described in the said former notice under the convention; of which former notice, printed copies will be delivered at this office to all who shall apply for the same.—And inasmuch as claims have already been received, under the said convention, to a much greater amount than the money to be distributed, and the commissioners, while they prevent, as far as in them lies, all unnecessary discussion and delay, will nevertheless proceed so as to ensure as much as possible the means of full investigation, and of equal justice to all concerned, notice is hereby given, That the several claims, schedules, and accounts, with a list of all the claimants, will be open at this office for the inspection of every claimant, or the authorised agent of such claimant, who may state such objections in writing (duly signed by such claimant or agent) as he may desire to have submitted to the consideration of the commissioners; which objections the said commissioners, if

they see cause so to do, will allow the respective claimants against whose claims, in the whole or in part, the same shall be directed, to see and answer; such inspection of claims to be made in the manner, and according to the rules, which, with the general orders of the board for regulating the course of the proceedings before them, will be communicated at this office. By order of the commissioners. J. W. HAY, Sec.

At a general meeting of the Manufacturers of Silk Handkerchiefs, and others concerned in that branch of trade, held at the London Tavern on the 6th instant, to consider of the proposed admission of India Silk Handkerchiefs for Home Consumption, subject to certain Duties. —Mr. Alderman Lea, in the Chair.

The former minutes were read and confirmed.—Received and read communications from Manchester and Macclesfield, and the resolutions of the public meeting of Macclesfield.—The following resolutions were passed unanimously:—1st. That the remonstrances of the silk trade, through their committee appointed at the general meeting of the 18th of February, against the intended permission to import India silk handkerchiefs for home consumption, having met a decided opposition from government, it is the opinion of this meeting, that as the admission of India silk handkerchiefs under any duty, however high, would inevitably ruin the silk handkerchief manufactory of this country, which gives employment to thousands; and would moreover serve probably as a precedent for a similar permission to import India silk piece-goods, to the destruction of the whole of the British silk manufactory, it becomes the indispensable duty of all persons concerned in the silk trade of this country, to resist, as strongly as possible, that clause of the consolidation bill about to be introduced into the Hon. the House of Commons, which would allow India silk handkerchiefs to be imported into this country for home consumption, subject to certain duties—2d. That a petition, signed by all persons interested in the silk trade, be presented to the Hon. the House of Commons, praying to be heard by counsel against such part of the said bill.—3d. That the committee appointed at the former meeting be continued, and be requested to draw up the said petition, and attend its progress through the House.—4th. That the committee be requested to wait on the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, and H. C. Combe, Esq. praying them to present this petition, and to wait on the other members for this city, the members for Middlesex, Chester, Staffordshire, Coventry, and other parts of the country interested in the silk trade, praying their support.—5th. That the committee be desired to draw up a particular statement of the grounds upon which this innovation is opposed, and that the same be printed, and a copy sent to every member of the Hon. the House of Commons.—6th. That it appears to this meeting, that increased duties have, from time to time, been imposed on the importation of silks without an increase of drawback; it is recommended to the committee, to consider of the best mode to obtain the equalization.—7th. That the resolutions of this meeting, signed by the chairman, be published in such Morning and Evening Papers as the committee may direct.

(Signed) RICHARD LEA, Chairman.

FRENCH FUNDS. Tiers Consolidés. — May 1st. 53. 40.—3d. 53. 20.—4th. 53. 25.—5th. 53. 10. 7th. 54. 25.—8th. 54. 75.—Moniteurs to the 9th have been received, but the last contains no price of funds.

General Distribution of the British Army, MAY 1, 1803.	Regulars. Cav.	Inf.	Milit.	Tot Ba.	Inv. Co
England and Wales	20	28	76	124	
North Britain	1	4	15	20	
Ireland	8	23	—	31	
Jersey, Guernsey, &c.	—	6	—	6	
Gibraltar	—	7	—	7	
Egypt and Malta	—	8	—	8	
Canada, Nova Scotia, &c.	—	4	—	4	
West-Indies	—	24	—	24	
Cape of Good Hope, Goree, &c.	—	3	—	3	
East-Indies, and on Passage to	5	20	—	25	
On Passage to England or Ire.	1	6	—	7	
Total	35	133	91	259	

BR. NAVY, 1st MAY.	Line.	50's	Frig.	Sps.	Tot.
In Port and fitting, and with sealed orders	24	5	38	50	117
English and Irish Channels	14	1	12	19	46
Downs and North Sea	1	2	13	17	33
West-Indies and Passage	2	0	6	11	19
Jamaica station	9	0	5	8	22
America and Newfoundland	0	1	2	4	7
Cape of G. Hope, East-Indies,	4	5	8	10	27
Coast of Africa	0	0	1	1	2
Portugal and Gibraltar	1	0	3	2	6
Mediterranean and on Passage	10	2	16	7	35
Hospital and Prison Ships	2	0	0	0	2
Total in Commission	67	16	104	129	316
Receiving Ships	7	0	7	1	15
Serviceable and repairing	13	0	8	2	23
In Ordinary	85	9	86	64	244
Building	24	0	12	9	45
Total	196	25	217	205	643
ORDINARY.					
Portsmouth	31	2	24	13	69
Plymouth	35	1	20	21	77
Chatham	35	6	21	4	66
Sheerness	1	0	6	7	14
River	3	0	29	16	48
Total	105	9	99	61	274

PRICE OF STOCKS.—APRIL 16 TO MAY 11.

Day of Month	Bank Stock	3 pr. C. R. An.	3 per C. Con.	4 pr. C. Con.	5 pr. Ct. Ann.	Bank L. Ann.	Omnium
16	167	63¾	63⅝	78⅝	—	16	—
18	—	63⅛	64⅛	79	—	18¼	—
19	167	63½	64½	80⅛	—	19	—
20	—	64¼	64⅛	82	—	16½	—
21	173	65⅞	67½	83⅞	—	19⅞	—
22	173¾	66⅛	67½	84	—	16⅞	—
23	170¼	65	63½	82½	—	16⅛	—
25	168	63½	64¼	81¼	—	19	—
27	169½	64⅛	65⅛	82⅛	—	19⅛	—
28	170¼	64¼	65⅞	82¼	—	19⅜	—
29	171	65⅞	65⅝	82½	—	19⅝	—
30	171	63¼	64	82¼	—	—	—
2	—	62¾	63⅜	80¼	—	16⅞	—
3	165	63	63⅛	80⅝	—	16	—
4	167	64⅝	64½	82½	—	19	—
7	—	61½	62¼	79½	—	18¼	—
9	—	64	65⅛	—	—	19⅛	—
10	—	63¼	64½	80½	—	—	—
11	—	62½	63½	81	—	13	—

PRICES CURRENT IN LONDON.

Eng. Wheat prq	47s. to 61s	Hops per cwt.	100s to 163s
Rye	32 .. 35	Hay per load	90 .. 140
Barley	21 .. 26	Beef, per st.	4s.4d. to 5s.8d.
Malt	41 .. 46	Mutton	5s. 0d. to 6s 0d.
Oats	15 .. 21	Veal	5s. 0d. to 6s. 3d.
Pease (white)	36 .. 42	Pork	4s. 4d. to 5s. 4d.
Beans (horse)	30 .. 34	Tallow	4s. 2d.
Flour per sack	43 .. 47	Av. of Sugar pr cw.	41s.5d.
Seconds	40 .. 43	Salt, per Bushel	14s.10d.
Coals per chal	50 .. 00	Bread 9d the Quar. Loaf.	

SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

PRESS-GANGS.—At, and in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, some very serious disturbances have taken place in consequence of the impress service. The mischief appears to have arisen, chiefly, from an advertisement, inserted by some of the *ship-owners*, in a paper, the editor of which has long been famed for his disloyalty. These persons admit the *necessity* of the impress service for the purpose of manning the fleet, but they are by no means of opinion, that the accomplishment of that object ought to interfere, for ever so short a time, with their individual interests! This combination was, however, broken by the more respectable class of Ship-owners, who seemed fully sensible of the criminal folly of their brethren. Nevertheless, as it is much easier to foment than allay a malcontent spirit, a very troublesome opposition to the service has been raised amongst the lower orders of the people, which has produced consequences far from being pleasant. His Majesty's officers have been insulted; in some instances, acts of violence have been committed against them and their men; and, we are well informed, that a boat from the Lapwing has been even *fired into* from Newcastle bridge.—That a vile democratic printer, that is to say, a rebel by principle, and almost by trade, should endeavour to create so mischievous a disposition, is not at all wonderful; but, that his nefarious efforts should be countenanced by any portion, however small, of the ship-owners of Great-Britain, is a circumstance that could not fail to excite both astonishment and indignation, at any time, and especially at this moment, when their whole body is petitioning His Majesty's Parliament for a repeal of the tonnage duty, upon the express plea, that their ships are the *nursery where seamen are raised for the Royal Navy!* This is the ground, and the only good ground, of their petition. It is well known, the experience of ages has proved, that a numerous fleet cannot be expeditiously manned without the aid of press-gangs. If therefore, the ship-owners oppose this established, this absolutely necessary mode of obtaining seamen from their ships, those ships are a species of property entitled to no more favour than dwelling-houses, barns or stables are entitled to. The Royal Navy is necessary to the maintenance of the honour, the security, the independence, of the country: its object is to protect the persons and the property of all His Majesty's subjects; but, it cannot be denied, that it yields a more immediate protection to mercantile mariners and the mercantile marine than to any other class of subjects or any other sort of property. The farmer or mechanic may, without much offence against reason, be supposed capable of entertaining doubts of the necessity of a fleet of men of war, the operations of which are so distant from the scene of his calling and the seat of his property; but, the ship-owner must know, that, without the protection of the Royal Navy, his trade must instantly cease.—And, as to the *legality* and *justice* of the impress, considered in respect to the seamen impressed, the man must be very ignorant, or incorrigibly perverse, who calls either in question. The warrants, in virtue of which the impress is executed, are as legal as any warrant whatever; and, what ship-owner, what mariner, does not know, when he becomes a mariner, that he will be liable to the impress? This is one of the *conditions*, on which he enters the profession, and on which he demands and enjoys the numerous advantages thereunto belonging. If we look round the country we shall find, that no small portion of its wealth belongs to men who have, in one way or another, followed the sea. And, if that property is saved, if they have been too, protected in its acquirement by the navy of the country, shall they not be called on to contribute towards the support of that navy? The mercantile marine of the whole empire does not employ less than 300,000 persons, not more, perhaps, than 30,000 of whom are ever, at any one time, impressed into the service of their country; and, is this contributing too largely to the support of that, without which their whole profession must immediately perish? The *militia* is not, indeed, raised by press-gangs; but, it is not composed of *volunteers*. The soldiers are *compelled* to come into the service, and a service, which, though it does not take them out of the kingdom, is much more contrary to their habits and their inclinations, than that of the fleet can possibly be to the seamen of the mercantile marine, who have been inured to the element on which they are to serve, and whose minds are accustomed to long absence from relations and friends. As to the impressation,

too, what poor man's calling offers a better or more secure? In the first place, the impressed seaman has a bounty full as great as if he were a volunteer. His pay is nearly as great as he can obtain in a merchant ship, his provisions and accommodations better. He has his chance of prize-money, and, if he is in greater danger from powder and ball, he is in less danger from the wrecks and other accidents to which merchantmen are exposed much more than men of war; and after all, if he be disabled or worn out in the service, his king and country provide him with a comfortable and honorable maintenance for the rest of his days, which he may spend under the the roof of a palace far surpassing any one of the dwellings of his sovereign, whereas, should the same circumstances overtake him in the merchant service, he must pine out his life under the misery and degradation of a workhouse.—This is the light, in which the subject must be viewed, by every one who takes time to bestow on it a careful and impartial examination; and therefore, we cannot but express our reprobation of the conduct of any persons whatever, and particularly ship-owners who attempt to throw obstacles in the way of the impress service, by the means of which only, the Royal Navy can possibly be manned.

Stock Jobbing Nation.—The Mercure de France of the 26th of March last, has the following remarks on the conduct of the London stock-jobbers.—"Hitherto, we have "been able to discover, in the minds of the "English, little more that the spirit of "stock jobbing, which seems to have ac"quired new vigour from the warlike-blus"ter of the ministers; and, as the spirit of "stock-jobbing is no more than the parody "of the spirit of patriotism, one may take "the liberty to laugh at the agitation it pro"duces. The gaping inhabitants of the Lon"don 'Change, look, with great solicitude, "towards the stocks in France, to see whether "they rise or fall: doubtless, if there were "stock-jobbers in France, they would look "to the stocks of London, in order to know "what value to set on the credit of their "own country. Miserable game! at which "Frenchmen formerly had to blush: sel"fish calculation! which can never grow "up amongst an agricultural people, with"out producing the total extinction of pub"lic spirit, but which suits very well in a "nation, where every thing is bought and "sold, where the government is compelled "to buy even the power of governing!" (1) —If such were the sentiments of this writer, two months ago, what must he think of us now? What must he think of the nation, which has been disturbed, to the remotest corners of its territory, by a mere waggish trick, played off on the Mayor of one of its cities, and, a second time, by a paragraph in one of its news-papers? These are most alarming symptoms. They prove the body politic to be in a state of fearful feebleness. Its nerves are shattered.—It starts and trembles at every report.—The events of the last week have, we fear, stamped the character of the British public for ever, or, at least, till some great and strong, and perhaps violent remedy be adopted for the cure of the money-loving malady, which now weighs us down to the earth. What that remedy will be, or whence it is to come, we know not; but, this we venture to assert, that England cannot, with its present feelings, long continue to be an independent nation.—Our readers will do us the justice to acknowledge, that we long ago predicted, that it would be on the side of the funds, which France would first attack us. We then stated, that, with our present funded debt, it was impossible to maintain public credit, while there was a power, who could *raise and sink our funds at its pleasure.* It is absolutely impossible; and, therefore, that debt must be destroyed, or we must, by some means or other, get rid of that *menacing power*, which France has acquired over us, and which she now exercises, with so much address and insolence on her part, and with so much folly and cowardice on ours. It is asserted, and, we believe, upon no very weak foundation, that the French have gained *two millions* in the British funds, since the date of the King's message. Of this sum a part has passed over to France in cash, the rest has been and is now passing in merchandize, through various channels, and the effect is felt amongst our bankers and other speculators in stock. We now feel the salutary, the practical influence, of that "ca"p tal, credit, and confidence," which Lord Hawkesbury and his worthy colleague held forth as the "*best security*" to Great Britain, ——While, therefore, France is gaining so immensely in this way, as well as by the base folly of the English nobility and gentry, who are daily making a pilgrimage to kiss the boot of the First Consul, that nation would be very foolish not to keep peace with us on almost any terms. A little quarrel, a menace of war, about three times a year, would effect her object much sooner than it could possiby be effected by any other means. "France," said Mr. Windham, in his speech upon the Preliminaries, "will be "under no necessity to go to war with us;

(1) Mercure de France, p. 84.

" and *nothing but her own intemperance and in-*
" *solence, and an opinion of our endurance and*
" *weakness, beyond even what they may be*
" *found to deserve, can force upon us that ex-*
" *tremity.* She has much surer and safer
" means of going to work; means at the
" same time sufficiently quick in their ope-
" ration to satisfy any ordinary ambition:—
" she has nothing to do but to trust to the
" progress of her own power in peace,
" *quickened, as often as she shall see occasion,*
" *by a smart threat of war.* I cannot con-
" ceive the object, which a judicious appli-
" cation of these two means is not calcu-
" lated to obtain. A peace, such as France
" has now made, *mixed with proportions of a*
" *seasonable menace of war,* is a specific, for
" the undoing of a rival country, which
" seems to me impossible to fail." (2)—
How correct, how exactly correct, was this opinion!—Whether the intemperance and insolence of France have, or have not, been pushed *beyond our forbearance* is a question that remains to be solved; but, that she has tried them to the utmost is certain.——If peace, beloved peace, should, after all be continued for some time longer, the stock-jobber's hope will not, however, be realized. The nation must keep up an establishment nearly equal to that of war, or we shall have to arm a-fresh, and pay new bounties, twice or thrice a year. One or the other of these must be, or we must become the subjects of Frenchmen. The candid minister now stands between the horrors of war and the greater horrors of a financial deficit, which will be discovered, to the eyes of the most ignorant, long before the end of the year. War would be a good act of oblivion for his estimates of December last, and, accordingly, the French writers do not scruple to say, that, to obtain this act, was one of the objects of the present quarrel (3). Indeed, every man of any tolerable knowledge in the public affairs of the country cannot but perceive, that it is absolutely impossible for us to maintain, for any length of time, the peace establishment last fixed on, without *annual loans* or immense *new taxes* annually added to those already in existence; and, that such a course would, in a very short space, inevitably produce a failure in the payment of the interest on the public debt, or consequences infinitely more fatal, it requires no great sagacity to foretell. Therefore " the hope of the coward *must* perish." Something must be done to add to our power, or to diminish that of our mortal enemy. The lovers of " peace and plenty," the hypocrite, the coward, the drunkard, the glutton, the pic-nic, and the miser, may continue to unite their voices in the praise of peace, they may continue to despise the terms of that peace, they may continue to revile all those who yet stand up for national honour; but, neither their praise nor their revilings shall avail them aught; that honour must be regained, or their wealth and their luxury shall be destroyed, and they themselves shall become the most wretched, as they already are, the basest of mankind.——There are some persons, who, adopting the opinion lately quoted by us from a daily paper, seem to think, that a remedy for all our evils is to be found in a *mere change of ministry*, without any subsequent sacrifice or exertion on the part of the country. " Give us MR. PITT," say they, " only give us Mr. Pitt, and we shall " think ourselves *perfectly safe.*" And why? We should be glad to know why? Is it supposed, that Mr. Pitt can curtail the sea-coast of the French, which now sweeps round one half of the Continent of Europe? Can he make Buonaparté disband any portion of his army? Can he prevent the sudden rise of a French naval force? Can he reduce, *greatly* reduce, the establishments of England, without hazarding the safety of the country? If he cannot do these things, he can bring no security in peace. Undoubtedly the French would not insult him as they have done his creatures; they would proceed more cautiously, perhaps not quite so fast as they hitherto have done, but their object would be still the same; and, it is by no means unlikely, that caution and a relaxation of pace would only render its accomplishment the more sure. It is the immense disproportion of that relative state, in which we were placed by the treaty of Amiens, that must be got rid of, before any reasonable man will see a hope of safety for England, and this is to be done only by war; yes, horrid as is the sound, war, war, another war, *a successful war against France*, is the remedy, and the sole remedy, for the disease, which is now eating out the heart of the kingdom. " What!" say the slavish crew who have been crouching at the feet of Buonaparté, " would you go to war in order to drive " the French within their ancient limits? " You are *mad.*"—Mad as we are, you degenerate beings, the nation must think with us, and act up to its thoughts, or your splendid mansions will 'ere long change possessors, the emblems of your honours will be trampled in the dirt, while you yourselves will shift places with those who

(2) See Debates, Register, Vol. II. p. 1162.
(3) Mercure de France, March 19.

now eat the crums that fall from your tables. *Mad*, indeed! This charge is never preferred against the silly ministry who made, and the sickly-brained Parliament who approved of the treaty of Amiens. That imbecility which looked for strength in the credit, capital, and confidence of four hundred miserable jews; that canting enthusiasm which bids us rely on Providence while we were too base to use the means which Providence had placed in our hands; those fits and lucid intervals which one day dictated a remonstrance in favour of the Swiss, and the next day abandoned them to their fate; which one day ordered the retention of the Cape, and the next its surrender. None of these are called *madness*; no fear, however groundless, no reliance, however absurd, no assertion, however false, inconsistent, and contradictory, nothing is thus stigmatized, unless it leads to war; nothing is *madness* which does not call for exertion, which does not point to *national valour* as the only source of national hope. Except this, nothing is excluded from some share of wisdom: money and manufactures; the nasal twang of a methodistical nose; the extermination of bull-dogs; the converting of negroes into saints; Sunday schools for making scholars of those whose business it is to delve; soup-shops for feeding those who are too idle to work and too proud to beg; the abolition of tithes; thick handkerchiefs for ladies bosoms: each of these, as being *the means of national salvation*, has its numerous partizans, while, in resistance of France and her half a million of soldiers, to use powder and steel, to call on the people to buckle on their armour, is almost universally regarded as *madness!*—Such a nation cannot, it will not, and it ought not, to remain independent. It voluntarily bows its neck to the yoke of a foreign power, and that yoke it ought to wear.

FINANCE AND TRADE.—The deceptions, on these subjects, are kept up with unremitted attention. The following article we have extracted from a daily paper called the ORACLE.—"Notwithstanding the *croaking* "*that prevails amongst people in trade*, it ap- "pears from the accounts of the Custom- "House, now lying on the table of the "House of Commons, that our exports a- "mounted last year to £48,500,683, which "is £6,800,000 more than the foregoing "year, and this only the British produce "and manufactures. Our foreign mer- "chandize augmented also still more in pro- "portion.—Our exports of foreign mer- "chandize have trebled since the year 1792, "and that of our manufactures and pro- "duce has increased 50 per cent. Our im- "ports have not increased nearly in an "equal proportion; thus the balance in our "favour is great beyond example. Last year "our imports were £1,750,000, less than "the year before, which, added to the ex- "cess of the exports, makes an *augmentation* "of *balance* in our favour in last year of "£8,550,000." This article has been inserted in *all* the daily papers, and has not, perhaps, cost the public less than the paragraph inserted in the Morning Post on the 5th instant, *comparing the conduct of the opposers of Lord St. Vincent to that of the traitor Despard.* Blessed liberty of the press! Blessed "palladium of free men!" Not only does it deceive the people, but makes them *pay for the deception!*—As to this article on Finance and Trade, however, we cannot much blame the editors of the daily papers for inserting it. The subject is one that they do not understand, and, such is the nature of their publications, they have not *time* to inquire into the truth of any statement, of this sort, which is sent to them. It arrives at their office at midnight, perhaps, and it is in print before three o'clock in the morning. But, we request the editor of the Oracle to look into the Register of the 23d of April, p. 584, *et seq.* and that of April 30th, p. 614, where he will find the deception, with regard to British produce and manufactures exported, completely exposed.—— With respect to the *aiminution* in our imports, which he seems to have been led to view as a *favourable* circumstance, what would he say, if he were told that our own West-India and North American produce, our own sugar, cotton, and furs, are included in those imports? This discovery would certainly overset his "*balance*." But, the truth is, that there has been, during the last year, no other positive diminution in our imports than that which has arisen from the falling off in the importation of *corn*, *meal*, and *flour*, which was brought hither in such great quantities during the preceding year, for the sake of the bounty offered by Parliament,——We shall take an early opportunity of going, more at length, into the state of our commerce and navigation. If articles, such as we have here quoted, are inserted from inadvertency, we have said enough to prevent future impositions of the kind, and, if their insertion is *paid for*, we have not the vanity to hope that any thing we could say would have the least effect on those who insert them; for, of all the sweet moments of a newsmonger's sweet life, the sweetest are those which bring him *paid for paragraphs*. No matter what it is, so that it comes accom-

panied with the guineas. Hence the never-ending inconsistencies and contradictions that are seen in all the London papers. The *editor*, who is generally a man of some talent, would, perhaps, reject articles which militate against his statements of the preceding day; but, in comes the interest of the *proprietor*, and silences all the remonstrances of sense, reason, and conscience; and, as the editor is not known to the world, his reputation is not at stake, and he has no right to complain. And, yet, it is to publications like these, that the public look for information! It is in publications like these, that they think they find it! It is the continuation of a shameful traffic like this which is styled "the liberty of the press," and which is boasted of as the "birth-right of Britons!" Oh, the inestimable birth-right! the right of being led by the nose, by a set of the meanest and most ignorant creatures that ever existed upon earth; the right of being continually agitated and deceived, and the right of paying for that agitation and deception! Some persons, while they will readily acknowledge the justice of these remarks, will call in question the prudence of making them. Alas! there is nothing to be hoped for from the press, particularly the newspaper press, which always has been, and always will be, as long as it lasts, the curse of the country. No; it must be an influence quite different from this that will save this monarchy, if it be saved at all. The people must act from the dictates of their own minds, and not from the notions they imbibe through this, from this corrupted and all-corrupting and degrading source.

MAIDSTONE OPPOSITION.—The persons coming under this denomination have already taken the ground, on which they mean *to oppose the war*, which they now regard as unavoidable. The Morning Chronicle of the 9th instant contains their Manifesto, which we are well assured was written by Mr. Fox himself, who is now preparing to pursue precisely that line of conduct, which, several months ago, we said he would pursue.—The Manifesto sets out with asserting, that "*necessity*, and nothing but necessity, in the *strictest sense* of the word, could justify a war with France; that the war could *never* be any thing but a war of *self-defence*, cold, lifeless, languid defence." It next proceeds, through a far-fetched chain of reasoning, to show, that "France is, and will remain, invulnerable on the Continent of Europe, and that it is *on the Continent alone* that she can ever be beaten into a compliance with any thing that shall render a peace with her more secure than the present." The conclusion, therefore, is, that "if there be a prospect of our enjoying any *tolerable security*, it is better than a war, a naval or colonial war, which can *never lead* to any decisive victory or advantage over France."—But, in order to obtain even this *tolerable* security, we must have *another administration*, to be composed, we presume, wholly of those who gave evidence to the character of O'Connor, who said and who swore, that his principles were *the same as their own*. ——We deny that the war must necessarily be "nothing but a war of *self-defence*;" we deny, that it is "on the Continent of Europe *alone* that France is to be beaten into a peace more secure than the present;" we deny, that "she is, and will remain, *invulnerable* on that Continent;" we deny, that "a naval and colonial war can *never lead* to any decisive advantage over her;" and, of course, we deny all the conclusions drawn from these premises.——If, by self-defence, the demagogue means, the defending of our country against final subjugation, our gracious and beloved Sovereign from the fate of Louis XVI. and ourselves from the most abject slavery, then the war, if it takes place, will be a war of self-defence; but, that, in the conducting of this war, we are to do nothing but line our own shores and our coasts, and there wait the arrival of the enemy; if this be his meaning, we trust, that he expresses his own, and not the nation's wishes, for such a war would, most assuredly, be infinitely more fatal than even the continuance of the present peace and of that "*tolerable* security" which it has brought us.——That the Continent of Europe is, for the far greater part, in the chains of Buonaparté, we'll allow; but, will those chains be weakened, or will they be strengthened by *time*? Will not every future day of this peace, as every past day of it has done, add new links and new rivets to those chains, and will not a few more years of slavery extinguish not only the hope but the desire of freedom? If France is to be beaten into a peace of security to us, on the continent of Europe *only*, is it wise to suffer her to extend and consolidate her power on that continent? To the evils produced, in this respect by the treaty of Amiens, is it wise to add the further and greater evils of another disgraceful accommodation? Is it wise to do an act which shall convince every soul upon the continent, that there is no hope left in Great Britain? —How long has it been a fact so very obvious, that no solid advantage is ever to be gained over France, except by the aid of

the continental powers? We remember, that Mr. Fox and his party opposed every subsidy granted to our continental allies; we remember that, for ten long years, they declaimed against all continental connections indiscriminately; and now, behold, when they regard us as completely cut off from those connections, they have the effrontery to assert, that *it is from the influence of such connections alone, we can ever hope to obtain a peace more secure than the present!*— That a war, merely colonial and naval, carried on upon the mean and selfish plan of the last war, would produce no good effect is certain. But, are we compelled to repeat our former errors? Are we compelled so to act, that no foreign nation shall sympathise in our successes; that they shall view us with constant jealousy and envy; that none of the glorious deeds of our navy shall revive the hopes, shall awaken the dormant spirit of revenge, in the breasts of those who are now crouching under the cruel and impious tyranny of France? Is there any obligation upon us thus to conduct a colonial and naval war; has Providence doomed us so to conduct it? If not, there is hope, great and solid hope, that, by a colonial and naval war, into which the whole spirit and utmost exertion of England, should be thrown, and steadily pointing, through all the reverses of fortune, to a great and definite object, interesting to the world, not only our own lasting security might be provided for, but that the oppressed continent might be once brought into action, and its efforts crowned with ultimate success; while, on the contrary, the "*tolerable*" or rather *intolerable* "security," purchased by the great and numerous sacrifices of the peace of Amiens, and rendered, as it must be, still more intolerable by another miserable accommodation, must inevitably tend to our further dishonour and our final slavery, in spite of the pacific exertions of Mr. Fox.

MALTESE DEPUTATION. — By referring to the first page of the present sheet, the reader will perceive, that we have now obtained the sequel of the dark history of the conduct of ministers with respect to the deputies and the people of Malta. We, in our last, adduced their negociations at Paris as a proof of their hostility to the tenth article of the disgraceful treaty of Amiens; another proof is now exhibited, in an account, on the correctness of which we place the firmest reliance, of their conduct at the publication of that article in Malta. They "*tore it down* "*from all the places where the government had* "*caused it to be affixed.*" And, this was the sign they gave of that "*satisfaction*," which Mr. Addington declared they felt; of that "*gratitude*," which he declared they entertained "*towards Great-Britain, for the terms pro-*"*cured them!!!*" (4) There is not to be found, even amongst the transactions of the present ministry, any thing so black, so detestable as this. But the parliamentary charge against the ministers is, that they with-held, when called for, the papers relative to this matter, under the pretext, under the positive assertion, *that they possessed no such papers*. Lord Temple moved for papers, containing the statutes of the order of St. John of Jerusalem, and such other papers as might shew what were the rights, privileges, and claims of that Order. The answer was, that ministry "had *no official document on the sub-*"*ject;*" (5) and, upon that ground, and that ground alone it was, that the ministers opposed the motion and caused it to be rejected, at a time when they had been four months, at least, in full possession of Number II. of the papers contained in our last sheet, which paper contains the very information which Lord Temple called for. The parliament was thus kept totally in the dark as to Malta. Those who opposed the treaty saw an odd, impracticable arrangement; but they knew not distinctly who was the injured party at Malta, the people or the knights. In acknowledging the rights of the latter, they perceived, that these rights were violated by the forced intrusion of the Maltese into the Order; but with the rights and claims the merits and wishes of the people of Malta they were totally unacquainted, and so they would have remained, had not the Maltese themselves, by the aid of their friends, made the communication through the press. Never was such an insult offered to any body of legislators, Buonaparté's mutes not excepted. It was not thus that a British parliament was *formerly* treated; it was not thus that insults were received by those Houses of Commons who brought Clarendon and Danby, and Somers and Portland, and Oxford to the bar of the House of Lords, for advising breaches of national faith, and for concluding treaties destructive of the interests and the honour of England; it was not thus that our forefathers suffered themselves to be trampled on by France for the sake of exalting and enriching the ministers of the day; and we do yet hope, that, when the parliament and the nation shall clearly see into all the conduct of the present selfish ministers, when they shall feel the full weight of all the miseries which the incapacity and wickedness of these men have brought and

(4) See his Speech, Register, Vol. II. p. 1213.
(5) See Debates, Register, Vol. II. p. 1259.

is bringing upon them; we do yet hope, that *then* there will be found spirit enough in the people to demand, and integrity enough in their rulers to execute, such justice upon the offenders as shall convince future ministers, that their *responsibility* is not an empty sound. Never, since England has been a nation, was there a set of men who could justly be charged with having heaped so much calamity upon the people, so much disgrace upon the English name; and, shall not that injured people demand and obtain justice on them? We have heard more of *responsibility* within these last eighteen months, than during any ten years before. It has been the constant plea, the standing, the insuperable bar, against all inquiry whatever. And, shall this responsibility, this bond of surety, at last dwindle into a mere name? Shall the nation be harrassed, burdened, disgraced, and insulted, past all enduring, and, shall they be told, after all, that ministerial responsibility "is not worth *two pence*?" Shall the mere vote of a majority of the last parliament, approving of the Treaty of Amiens be quoted as an act of *indemnity and oblivion* for those who counselled that destructive compact? Did such a vote save Oxford from the Tower? Did such a vote prevent Darnley from lying two years in prison, with King Charles's pardon in his pocket? No; and we trust, that such a vote will now be no bar to that justice, which the people have a right to demand, and which we hope they will obtain, through the legal means pointed out by that constitution for which their fathers shed their blood.—His Majesty, too, that gracious Sovereign, who has made so many sacrifices to the happiness of his people, shall he be deserted by them at this awful crisis? Will that people basely acknowledge that his servants have no responsibility, and thereby render them his master, thereby create and submit to the worst and most odious of all despotisms, that of a subject reigning, in the name of the king, over both king and people? —In order to come at something like *fixed notions* on a subject, which we hope will ere long, occupy the attention of the country, we propose, in a future sheet, to enquire, 1. Into the nature and maxims of that responsibility, which is attached to a British ministry; 2. Whether the conduct of the present ministers be not, when compared with precedent cases, a subject that calls loudly for enquiry; 3. What are the prominent and specific acts that they justly stand charged with, and what resemblance they bear to those acts of former ministers, who have been impeached by the House of Commons; 4. Whether the interference of parliament, in this respect, be not, at the present time, peculiarly necessary to the cherishing and preserving of that confidence which the people ever ought to repose in their Sovereign and his government.—We could have wished to see this important enquiry in abler hands; but we shall not, by that consideration, be deterred from the discharge of our duty. We have often, heretofore, led the way, as pioneers in enterprizes finally crowned with success; and, however mighty the present task, when contrasted with the feebleness of our powers, we cannot help recollecting and repeating, that the lion was once released from his toils by the patient nibblings of the mouse.

THE NEGOTIATION.—Before what we are now writing will make its appearance before the public, the negotiation with France will, probably, be brought to a close. Near, however, as we have touched the verge of war, it will, to us, be something very surprizing, if one of the parties, or both of them, do not recede far enough from their demands to produce an accommodation. Buonaparté cannot *wish* for war yet; he can never wish for war, while he can sport with our funds as he has done for six months past. A war will, too, drive all the rich and base English out of his country; and, they spend there at the rate of £3,000,000 per annum, which, together with what the French drain out through the channel of the funds, is a source of riches not to be despised, particularly when it is considered, that what is gained by France is lost by the nation, whose public credit she wishes to destroy.—Buonaparté's preparations are by no means made. He wanted Louisiana in his hands; St. Domingo well settled and arranged; Martinico and Guadaloupe with numerous garrisons; the Cape and Cochin in the same state; his intrigues with the Princes of India wanted ripening; also his intrigues in Turkey; and the surrender of Malta, on our part, was a principal object with him. Nor has he got things in Ireland so far advanced as they would have been, and, if there is not war, as they *will be*, in the course of another year, during which, too, all his means of invasion would be fully prepared.—Situated as he is, therefore, he will feel a strong disposition to keep us in the miserable state, into which we were plunged by the treaty of Amiens, and under the sway of a ministry who seem to have been made to his hands, and whom he ought to make almost any sacrifice to preserve in their places, which nothing is so likely to do as a continuation of the name of *peace*.—For these reasons, though we are at this moment (*Friday* morning) told, that Lord Whitworth is arrived at Dover, we still think that another disgraceful accommodation will take place.

ERRATA in our last.—p. 676. l. 34, read membrum Regiæ Coronæ.—p. 687. l. 15 for 6,500— read 6,500,000.

Several Correspondents are requested to excuse us this week. They shall be punctually attended to in our next.

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